

Examiner's Objections

The Examiner objected to the term "including the step ..." in the claims as rendering them vague and indefinite. Applicant has amended the above-noted claims herein in response to the Examiner's grounds for objection. As a result of these amendments, Applicant believes the Examiner's grounds for objection to be traversed. Therefore, claims 29-50 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

EVA MARIA MOSER,

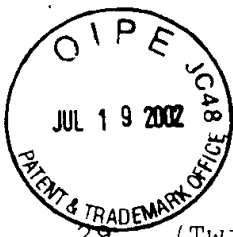
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Date: July 10, 2002

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AMENDED CLAIMS

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29. (Twice Amended) Process which comprises: coating substrates with a polar coating, wherein the coating takes place by means of plasma polymerization; including the step of employing a water-free process gas which contains at least one substituted hydrocarbon compound with up to a maximum of 8 C-atoms and also an inorganic gas, to produce a coating which is stable in the long term; and [including the step of] wherein the coating [a substrate with] comprises 2 to 4 gases of the following: CO₂, CH₄, O₂, C₂H₂, NH₃ and Ar.

30. (Amended) Process according to claim 29, [including the step of] wherein the coating [a substrate with a process gas of] is a process gas of CO₂, C₂H₂ and Ar.

32. (Amended) Process according to claim 29, [including the step of] wherein the coating [a substrate with] is a process gas of NH₃, CO₂, CH₄ and Ar.

34. (Amended) Process according to claim 29, [including the step of] wherein the coating [a substrate with] is a process gas of CO₂ and CH₄.

36. (Amended) Process according to claim 29, [including the step of] wherein the coating [a substrate with] is a process gas of CO₂, CH₄ and Ar.

38. (Amended) Process according to claim 29, [including the step of] wherein the coating [a substrate with] is a process gas of CO₂ and Ar.

40. (Amended) Process according to claim 29, [including the step of] wherein the coating [a substrate with] is a process gas of CH₄, O₂ and Ar.

42. (Amended) Process according to claim 29, [including the step of] wherein the coating [a substrate with] is a process gas of CO₂, CH₄, O₂ and Ar.

44. (Amended) Process according to claim 29, [including the step of] wherein the coating [a substrate with] is a process gas of CH₄, NH₃ and Ar.

46. (Twice Amended) Process which comprises: coating substrates with a polar coating, wherein the coating takes place by means of plasma polymerization; including the step of employing a water-free process gas which contains at least one

substituted hydrocarbon compound with up to a maximum of 8 C-atoms and also an inorganic gas, to produce a coating which is stable in the long term; [and including the step of providing that] wherein the polar coating has an initial surface tension of < 45 mN/m, which remains unchanged for at least one year.

48. (Twice Amended) Process which comprises: coating substrates with a polar coating, wherein the coating takes place by means of plasma polymerization; including the step of employing a water-free process gas which contains at least one substituted hydrocarbon compound with up to a maximum of 8 C-atoms and also an inorganic gas, to produce a coating which is stable in the long term; [and including the step of] and wherein said coating step further comprises coating at least one of packing materials and substrates for adhesion of composite materials.

50. (Twice Amended) Process which comprises: coating substrates with a polar coating, wherein the coating takes place by means of plasma polymerization; including the step of employing a water-free process gas which contains at least one substituted hydrocarbon compound with up to a maximum of 8 C-atoms and also an inorganic gas, to produce a coating which is stable in the long term; and [including the step of coating at

least one] the substrate is at least one of ceramic and metal
substrates.